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## Business Notices

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**THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE will be ready this morning at 10 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing. Price 5 cents.**

**THE NEWS THIS MORNING.**

5 The inquiries which the Committee on the Enforcement of the Excise Laws have put to the Police Commissioners must strike the Board as unpleasant. They are made in a perfectly respectful manner, but still they are home-thrusts. Recalling, apparently, the predicament into which the members of the Excise Board

ess of tidially task, the surplus to go to the prisoner's family, if he has one; the strict prohibition of corporal punishment; freedom for each prisoner to communicate in writing to the Superintendent or the Governor at least once a month; extra requirements for the maintenance of cleanliness; and instruction in common English branches. These are all wise suggestions, and are all in the interest of the prisoners. We trust that the legislation necessary for their enforcement will be adopted. There is only one desire in the public mind on this subject, and that is that the prisoners be surrounded with such safeguards and such means of instant communication with the State officials that if by any chance they fall into the hands of an inhuman keeper, his cruelty cannot be concealed. We do not believe there is a State in the Union whose prison system is superior to that of New-York, and if it is possible to make it even better than it is now, by all means let the improvements be adopted at once.

The great significance of this report lies in the fact that it is a tribute of Democrats to the soundness of the Republican prison system. The investigation was made in response to

This question has an important bearing upon the future destiny of Canada. Professor Goldwin Smith was convinced ten years ago that the annexation of the Provinces to the United States was inevitable. Dr. Bender takes the same view in an article in the current number of *The North American Review*. He contends that while there is no systematic agitation for annexation afoot, there are a million of Irish-Canadians who secretly favor it, the French-Canadians are wholly uninfluenced by imperial considerations, republicanism is growing more popular every day, and the masses already feel that their fortunes are involved in the fate of the northern continent. He considers the prosperity of the Provinces to be dependent upon their intimate commercial relations with the United States, and looks upon the migration of thousands of Canadians across the border every year as a preliminary to the annexation of the territory itself a little later. This is a Canadian view of annexation, which will probably be ridiculed by political leaders in Toronto and Ottawa. Protestations of loyalty to the mother State are never wanting in the Provincial and Dominion Parliaments, and in the absence of leaders and agitators annexation may seem to them an impracticable suggestion. Yet the presence in the United States of a million or more of British and French-Canadians who have crossed the border must exert a powerful influence upon the few millions who have been left behind. It must be operating, as Dr. Bender says, as a mighty moral force in the interest of peace and closer communion.

Now Americans will welcome the annexation of the Canadian Provinces if it can ever be ac-

### A SWELLING TIDE.

To these may properly be added, as materials of important industries, leather, in which the increase was \$1,321,338; tin plates, in which the increase was \$3,088,254, and the very large though not accurately stated increase in steel blooms and ingots. On the other hand, the increase in articles not especially enumerated was very large, particularly in cotton.

*SPOOKS.*

Here is a bit of romance about Hortense Schneider, the "Grand Duchesse de Gerolstein," who now, not many months after her marriage, seeking a divorce from the Count de Blonue, Yearling, as "*Boulotte*" in "Barbe-Bleue," she used to eat real cherries, even though they were out of season and had to be brought from afar at great expense. Every evening she would toss one of the jewels—stones among the audience, where it could be eagerly snatched up by some admirer and preserved as a precious memento. One gentleman who was lucky as to catch one of the stones instead of mounting it in a ring as was the fashion, planted it in his garden, and there grew from it a vigorous tree, which in a few years began bearing choice fruit, such as diamonds and pearls; he sold them for six centimes donna every year by her horticultural fair dealer. In time, *Boulotte* became the Countess de Blonue, and, *mirabile dictu*, the tree, which for so long bore such beautiful fruit, blossomed and its wretched leaves dropped to the ground on the very day when her wedding.

**GENERAL NOTES.**

*MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.*

[illegible]

The London Times of March 7 says: "We understand that the professional staff of the Royal College of Music will include the following musicians: Violin, Mr. Henry Holmes; Mr. Compere, violin; M. Albert; Mr. G. H. Dwyer, viola; Mr. H. Dwyer, bass; Mr. A. L. White; piano-forte, Mme. Arabella Goddard; Mr. Pauer, Mr. Franklin Taylor, Mr. John F. Barnett, organ; Mr. Walter Parratt, Mr. G. C. Martin, singing; Mme. Lind-Goldschmidt, Mr. Albort Viesetti, Mr. H. Deacon, Miss Masuccio; declamation, Mrs. Keesda; composition and orchestral practice, Mr. C. Villiers Sturford; counterpoint and organ, Dr. J. F. Bridge; church practice and piano, Mr. Eaton Fanning; music-history, Mr. George Horton; clarinet, Mr. H. Laszaris; horn, Mr. E. Mann; bassoon, Mr. W. B. Wotton; Italian language, Signor G. A. Mazzucato. The limits of age for scholars ships have been fixed as follows: Composition—above 18; Organ—above 16; Piano—above 14; Singing—above 14; Counterpoint—above 14; Italian Language—above 14; Clarinet—above 14; Bassoon—above 14; Viola—above 14; Violin—above 14."